

**NORTHSIDE TRI-COUNTY
COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA**

2003 ANNUAL EOY REPORT



**Prepared by
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TCC Chairman & Noxious Weed Control Superintendent**

INTRODUCTION

The Northside Tri-County Cooperative Weed Management Area (TCC) is a cooperative effort to control the introduction of new invasive species and the spread of noxious weeds in the Jerome, Lincoln and Gooding County area.

VISION

The TCC is intended to bring together those responsible for weed management and control and to develop common management objectives, facilitate effective treatment, and coordinate treatment efforts. The cooperators will jointly establish control priorities, treat individual weed species/infestations, coordinate the use of resources and manpower, develop common inventory techniques and mapping, facilitate an increase in awareness in the detriments of Noxious Weeds.

MISSION

To make residents, landowners and land managers conscious of the environmental and economic degradation caused by invasive exotic plant species and encourage cooperation, collaboration, and coordination within the TCC to prevent new infestations of and to manage existing populations of noxious weeds.

AREA

The TCC is comprised of the counties of Gooding, Jerome and Lincoln, State of Idaho. Stakeholders in this effort are numerous and include:

Bureau of Land Management, Shoshone District
Idaho State Department of Fish and Game
Idaho State Department of Lands
Idaho State Department of Transportation
Idaho State Department of Parks and Recreation
National Park Service
Cities of Bliss, Dietrich, Eden, Gooding, Hagerman, Hazelton, Jerome, Richfield,
Shoshone, and Wendell.
County Highway Districts, Bliss, Dietrich, Gooding, Hagerman, Hillsdale, Jerome,
Kimama, Richfield, Shoshone, Wendell and Westpoint.
Eastern Idaho Railroad
Union Pacific Railroad
Northside Canal Company
Big Wood Canal Company
The Purple Loosestrife Management Group
Wood River RC&D

WEED MANAGEMENT AREA GOALS

1. Prevent the introduction, reproduction and spread of designated noxious weeds and invasive exotic plant species into the within the Tri-County area.
2. Reduce the extent and density of established noxious weeds.
3. Implement an integrated management system using all appropriate available methods and tools.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES

The following management objectives and treatment priorities are assigned to specific infestations to provide direction for the intensity and sustained effort of control actions, and to coordinate management efforts of the cooperators. It is intended that these objectives and priorities will focus limited resources where they are most effective in managing noxious weeds.

A. Management Objective Definitions

1. **Prevention.** Prevent establishment of noxious weeds that are not present in the TCC.
2. **Eradicate.** Attempt to totally eliminate a noxious weed species from the TCC.
3. **Contain.** Prevent the spread of the weed beyond the perimeter of patches or infestation areas. Will tolerate existing weed densities within established infestations, but control or eradicate outside those areas.
4. **Control.** Prevent seed production throughout the target patch and reduce the area of coverage of the weed. Prevent the weed species from dominating the vegetation of the area but accept low levels of the weed.
5. **Tolerate.** Accept the presence of the weed at a level that is below the threshold of acceptable resource impacts. Species is not inherently invasive as environmental or biological elements are keeping the population within acceptable limits or control is not feasible under current technology.

B. Management Priorities

1. Prevent the establishment of Potential Invaders
2. Eradicate New Invaders
3. Treat satellite infestations of established invaders, and/or treat transportation corridors and areas of concentrated activities such as roads, trails, parking lots and gravel pits.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES AND MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

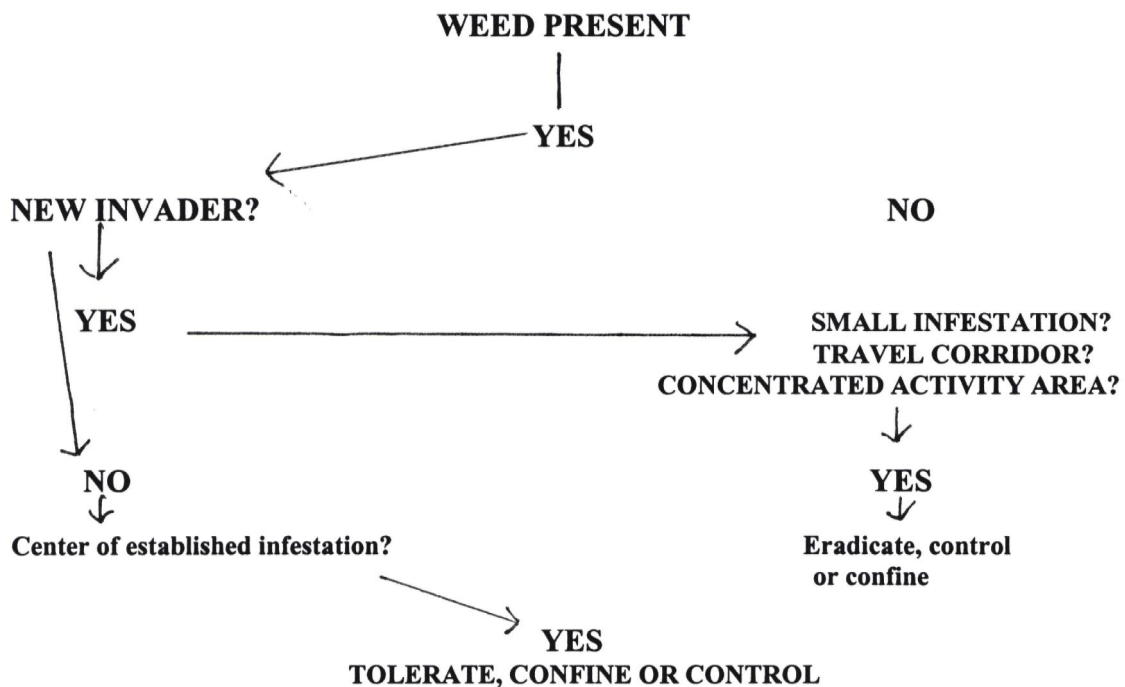
A. Comprehensive Inventory

A coordinated weed database has been developed and will be maintained for the entire management area. Base maps will be USGS 7.5 minute topographic quads. Information will be sent to the ISDA and the BLM for storage in their Geographic Information System (GIS) database. The minimum information to be stored includes, topography, location of infestation, size of infestation in acres, stage of growth, density of stand, treatment information, date and time of entry.

B. Weed Management Actions

The personnel under the direction of the TCC will use the flow chart shown below to determine priorities and management objectives for each weed species within their jurisdiction.

PRIORITY MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE FLOWCHART



C: Weed Control Methods

The following management techniques of noxious weed control will be considered on a site specific and plant species basis.

1. **Physical/Mechanical.** The use of physical or mechanical methods of weed control can be effective on small infestations of annual or biennial species. Hand grubbing, mowing, tilling and burning are commonly used to physically destroy weeds or interfere with their reproduction. To be effective, treatment must take place before seed production. Repeated mowing or tilling during the growing season is sometimes required with some weed species.
2. **Biological.** Biological weed control involves the deliberate introduction and establishment of natural enemies to reduce the target plant's competitive or reproductive capacities. Insects are the most common agents released against noxious weeds. Plant pathogens, such as fungi, are increasing in use. Livestock have also been effective in reducing densities and limiting spread of certain weed species.
3. **Herbicide.** Herbicides are an effective and efficient tool for the control of noxious weeds. Herbicide application and rates are dependent on specific site characteristics, target plant, location, non-target vegetation and land use. Herbicides are an important method of treatment when control or eradication is the management objective. Environmental concerns make it critical to follow all label instructions, site directions and safety precautions when using any herbicide.
4. **Cultural Land Use.** Cultural practices are activities that purposefully enhance and maintain the growth of desired vegetation. Practices that retain, enhance or introduce desirable plant species that out-compete or dominate exotic plant species can serve as prevention, control and/or follow-up. Examples that are applicable to the TCC are seeding, planting, fertilizing and retaining brush and grasses. Grazing prescriptions that are designed to maintain or enhance perennial vegetation in a healthy state or maintain soil cover are an important practice in slowing the spread of problem plants. Minimizing the extent and duration of exposed soil during management actions can also reduce the risk of problem plant establishment.
5. **Prevention.** Attempt to determine where the infestation originated. Based upon these findings follow the Priority/Management Objective Flow Chart, or notify the area the infestation came from and offer any help merited.

**WEED MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND TREATMENT SPECIFICS BY
SPECIES**

A. Prevention

1. The following weed species are of immediate concern due to there proximity to the TCC and the major travel corridors. None have been reported within the TCC. They include, Black Henbane, Jointed Goatgrass, Syrian Beancaper, Yellow Toadflax, and Eurasian Water Milfoil
2. The following weed species are not of immediate concern do to the remoteness of reported infestations to the TCC. They include, Common Crupina, Johnsongrass, Matgrass, Meadow Hawkweed, Meadow Knapweed, Orange Hawkweed, Milium, Tansy Ragwort and Toothed Spurge.
3. The following weed species are not reported to be present in the TCC, but have been shipped in via nursery stock and contaminated seed in the past. They include Scotch Broom, St Johnswort, a county designated Noxious weed, and Yellow Starthistle.

B. Eradication

1. The weed species in this category exist within the TCC in small amounts and are sought out and destroyed immediately or are part of an eradication program. These include Buffalobur, Dyers Woad, Perennial Pepperweed, Perennial Sowthistle, Silverleaf Nightshade, Skeletonleaf Bursage, and Dalmation Toadflax.

C. Control

1. These weed species exist throughout the TCC in manageable acreages at the present time. These include Field Bindweed, Hoary Cress, Leafy Spurge, Musk Thistle, Poison Hemlock, Puncturevine, Purple Loosestrife, Russian Knapweed, Scotch Thistle and Spotted Knapweed.

D. Tolerate

1. The weed species in this category are either out of control, or are so wide spread it would be unfeasible given limited resources to control them. They include Rush Skeletonweed, Diffuse Knapweed and Canada Thistle.

TCC ACTIVITIES 2003

Prevention

- The TCC conducted inspections of gravel pit operations in the area including one taking place in an overflow area of the Big Wood River. The purpose was to inform contractors, owners and operators of such operations of the potential of Noxious Weed Spread by the operations. In one instance, the Big Wood River Operation, this office requested that a list of all recipients of these materials be sent to the TCC office. With this list, the TCC would then inspect these areas for the presence of Noxious Weeds and monitor the area for new invasive plants of that area. The TCC would also inform the recipients of their control options.
- The TCC displays at the local county fairs, Gooding Jerome and Lincoln Counties, were of an all around informative nature. They included pictures of noxious weeds in their natural environment, prevention measures that could be taken, and of course who to call if spotted.
- The TCC actively participated in the Weed Free Forage and Straw Program. This office certified 1430 acres of straw, timothy grass hay and alfalfa hay. We expect for this number to double in the 2004 season.

Education

- The TCC participated in and conducted public meetings, school programs and the County Fairs. Educational and informational materials were provided those who asked for them and the early detection, control and eradication of Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plant Species was emphasized in each meeting.
- The TCC was initial in the formation of the Southern Idaho Biological Project. This project is a copy of the very successful Camas Bug Crew and utilized the expertise of it's leader, Nan Reedy. Gooding County formed a "Bug Crew" of it's own and for 2004, Lincoln County will be on board with a crew as well. Jerome County to follow in 2005. For more information on this operation, call Nan at 934-4149.

Inventory/Mapping

- The TCC utilized GPS technology to map all infestations found in the area.

Eradication

- The TCC took an active role in the eradication efforts on Dyers Woad in Lincoln county and Dalmation Toadflax and Perennial Pepperweed in Jerome County.

Containment

- The TCC along with the Purple Loosestrife Management Group gathered *Galerucella californiensis*, Black Margined Loosestrife beetles, at Fort Boise. These insects were then distributed on Loosestrife infested areas of the Snake River in Gooding, Lincoln and Twin Falls Counties that are difficult to access with conventional equipment. The TCC also continued it's efforts with personnel and equipment in the Purple Loosestrife control efforts in the area.

Control

- All Highway Districts in the TCC were involved in the process of controlling Noxious Weeds on their respective properties. The methods used were as varied as the Districts themselves. The BLM under the leadership of Scott Uhrig and Tony Owen treated all the roadsides in their jurisdiction with selective herbicide. This is an ongoing effort to prevent the spread and to contain the weeds that are present. Big Wood and Northside Canal Companies continue to control weeds on their properties with herbicide applications and implementation of mowing.

2003 STEERING COMMITTEE

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APPENDIX II

CATEGORY	WEED SPECIES	ACRES TREATED
Eradication	Dyers Woad	480
Eradication	Perennial Pepperweed	1
Eradication	Dalmation Toadflax	1
Eradication	Skeletonleaf Bursage	1
Containment	Purple Loosestrife	300
Containment/control	Russian Knapweed	250
Containment/control	Scotch Thistle	1000
Containment/control	Hoary Cress	25
Containment/control	Rush Skeletonweed	100
Containment/control	Spotted Knapweed	40
Containment/control	Puncturevine	50

Note: These were the acres treated by the TCC.

